

Message Text

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14

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 /029 W

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R 041244Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

SECSTATE WASHDC 1694

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ATRN, ACOM, SY, LE, SEC

SUBJECT: BEIRUT CLASSIFIED POUCHES

REF: (A) ATHENS 9086, (B) ATHENS 9270, (C) DAMASCUS 5859,
(D) DAMASCUS 5863

1. IN VIEW OF PRESENT SITUATION HERE, EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS REDUCED VOLUME OF CLASSIFIED ON HAND TO ESSENTIAL MATERIALS ONLY. WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT RECEIPT OF FIVE (5) CLASSIFIED POUCHES (259 LBS) PER REFTELS, AND SIMILAR AMOUNTS IN FUTURE WILL SERIOUSLY IMPAIR OUR ABILITY TO SATISFACTORILY DISPOSE OF CLASSIFIED MATERIALS, SHOULD NEED ARISE. (PRESENT VOLUME OF CLASSIFIED CAN BE DESTROYED WITHIN LESS THAN TWO (2) HOURS.)

2. WE EXPECT THAT PERHAPS ONE-HALF TO TWO-THIRDS OF CLASSIFIED EN ROUTE TO BEIRUT (REFTEL B) IS PROBABLY MATERIAL THAT IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO EMBASSY OPERATIONS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND WILL HAVE TO BE DESTROYED VERY SOON AFTER IT ARRIVES. TO TRANSPORT SUCH MATERIAL TO BEIRUT IS NOT ONLY A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY BUT ALSO REPRESENTS SOME RISK, SINCE IT MUST BE TRANSPORTED OVERLAND TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS THROUGH NUMEROUS ROADBLOCKS, BY AN AUTHORIZED AMERICAN EMPLOYEE. THE USE OF MSG AS NON-PRO COURIER AT SEPT 10 PERSONNEL ROTATION WILL TAKE CARE OF PRESENT ACCUMULATED CLASSIFIED BACKLOG, BUT
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REGULAR TRANSFER OF MATERIAL THEREAFTER IS UNCERTAIN,

UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. BEIRUT THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES LIMIT DISPATCH OF CLASSIFIED MATERIALS FOR BEIRUT TO MATERIALS ESSENTIAL TO CURRENT LEVEL AND NATURE OF EMBASSY OPERATIONS. IN ADDITION, BEIRUT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY DAMASCUS EXAMINE FEASIBILITY OF SCREENING CLASSIFIED MATERIALS NOW ON HAND AND POUCHES ARRIVING SEPT WITH A VIEW TO FORWARDING ONLY ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO BEIRUT.

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